## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

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want further protection in addition to being a monopoly. Well, I'm not totally convinced that this is wrong, but I think it should be at least something that you're concerned about. that doesn't take away from Senator Baker's point that there is, in his area and no doubt several others, a need for economic development and, probably, natural gas piping is...is one of the important things that...that would lead to economic development. And also, from what I hear, I would certainly agree with the notion that before a group of decision makers, voters, are asked to...to make a call, they ought to be provided full information. I've heard some, at least, anecdotal things where the decision was made and then at some point later, well, it really turns out that this wasn't quite the deal that I thought I was voting I have concern that this is not really a solution to the problem that's being offered here. What about normal business dealing? Is there something here that, for example, if...if...if I'm a small community as...as Senator Baker referenced, and I'm trying to get gas to come...a company to come in and provide gas, is there something now that says that I could not offer, as a city, to buy the plumbing system, and they would come in and operate Or, perhaps the other way around, they might agree for a certain sum that we could bond in the city to come in and put in the pipes, and then I, the city, would operate it? It seems to me that there are several options that could and should be looked at, exercised perhaps, to deal with this issue rather than this one, which is sort of a blatant attempt to put the bargaining chips in one hand. And again, maybe I...I'm not reading this correctly, but...but it seems to me that's where we're going. And the question...another question I would...I would say that...or...or notice that Senator Landis brought up, what if you pass this bill and companies still don't come with the gas, then what? Then do we go in and say, well, let's take out this rate part of this thing? Because if we could just offer enough more money and protect companies from . . . from action against them on rates maybe that would work. concerned that this probably is not the answer, and it leads you to sort of a violation of the way we do business and may then lead you to further, perhaps desperate, attempts to address the I will... I will listen. I obviously haven't made up my mind. But I have to... I have to tell you, I have concerns about this direction. Thank you.